THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR):(a) to (c) The Government has directed that steps should be taken to create an awareness amongst customers about the need for switching off cell phone while at retail outlets. Further, the oil marketing companies have been instructed to display warning notices apart from orienting field staff at the retail outlets for distributing suitable pamphlets to each vehicle entering the premises for a period of 30 days or so. A Press release was also made on 27th June, 2002 for the information of the Public at large.

**Wait-listed LPG applicants**

1450. SHRI K.P. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wait-listed LPG registrants in the country as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) the target fixed during the current financial year 2002-2003 for releasing new LPG connections;

(c) whether any time frame/road map has been prepared to liquidate the waiting list for gas connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) At present, LPG connections are released on demand by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in all the markets throughout the country. The release of connections during the year 2002-03 would depend upon the market demand.

**Freight equalisation scheme**

1451. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil companies are considering a proposal to do away with the freight equalisation scheme and there will be